IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Inserted text is underlined, and deleted text is either struck through or shown in double enclosing brackets. Applicants aver that no new matter has been added and that all claimed elements are supported by Applicants' specification.

1.-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of controlling playback of digital content by a playback device, the method comprising:

receiving data including the digital content, first data processing instructions, and second data processing instructions, the first data processing instructions corresponding to the digital content, the second data processing instructions, when executed by a computer language interpreter of the playback device, configuring the computer language interpreter to request an access to a memory of the playback device; and

executing the first data processing instructions by using the computer language interpreter, the first data processing instructions configuring the computer language interpreter to:

obtain a cryptographic value of the second data processing instructions;

determine an authenticity of the second data processing instructions by using the cryptographic value;

based on the authenticity, performing a first operation selected from a first group consisting of:

inhibiting playback of at least a portion of the digital content, and

enabling the access by the computer language interpreter to the memory of the playback device, the access being performed by the computer language interpreter during execution of the second data processing instructions.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 30, wherein the first data processing instructions, in configuring the computer language interpreter to determine the authenticity, configure the computer language interpreter to perform a second operation selected from a second group consisting of:

comparing the cryptographic value to a reference value stored in the memory, and

verifying a digital signature corresponding to at least one of the first data processing instructions or the second data processing instructions.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 30, wherein the receiving of the data includes receiving at least some of the data from a media drive or via a network.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 30 further comprising storing information in the memory, the information representing at least one of:

a payment referencing the digital content,

a history of pay-per-view payments,

a counter value,

a duration of access,

a spending limit,

a pricing discount,

a permission level,

a privilege level,

a security policy,

a software update of the playback device,

third data processing instructions to obtain the software update,

a cryptographic key, or

a digital signature.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 30, wherein the first data processing instructions, in configuring the computer language interpreter to inhibit the playback, configure the computer language interpreter to perform a third operation selected from a third group consisting of:

preventing the playback,

disabling a rendering of the portion of the digital content,

communicating an error message,

communicating a first request to receive authentication data,

communicating a second request to initiate an upgrade of the playback device,

disabling a decryption of the portion of the digital content, and

restricting the playback to a reduced quality level less than a maximum quality level of the digital content.

35. (Currently Amended) An optical medium comprising:

digital content;

first data processing instructions corresponding to the digital content; and

second data processing instructions;

the first data processing instructions, when executed by a computer language interpreter of a playback device, configuring the computer language interpreter to:

obtain a cryptographic value of the second data processing instructions;

determine an authenticity of the second data processing instructions by using the cryptographic value;

based on the authenticity, perform a first operation selected from a first group consisting of:

inhibiting playback of at least a portion of the digital content, and

enabling an access by the computer language interpreter to a memory of the playback device, the access being performed by the computer language interpreter during execution of the second data processing instructions;

the second data processing instructions, when executed by the computer language interpreter of the playback device, configuring the computer language interpreter to request the access to the memory of the playback device.

36. (Previously Presented) The optical medium of claim 35, wherein the first data processing instructions, in configuring the computer language interpreter to determine the authenticity, configure the computer language interpreter to perform a second operation selected from a second group consisting of:

comparing the cryptographic value to a reference value stored in the memory; and

verifying a digital signature corresponding to at least one of the first data processing instructions or the second data processing instructions.

37. (Previously Presented) The optical medium of claim 35, wherein the first data processing instructions, in configuring the computer language interpreter to inhibit the playback, configure the computer language interpreter to perform a third operation selected from a third group consisting of:

preventing the playback,

disabling a rendering of the portion of the digital content,

communicating an error message,

communicating a first request to receive authentication data,

communicating a second request to initiate an upgrade of the playback device,

disabling a decryption of the portion of the digital content, and

restricting the playback to a reduced quality level less than a maximum quality level of the digital content.

38. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to control playback of digital content, the apparatus comprising:

a memory;

a computer language interpreter communicatively coupled to the memory; and

a media interface communicatively coupled to the computer language interpreter, the media interface to receive data including the digital content, first data processing instructions, and second data processing instructions, the first data processing instructions corresponding to the digital content, the second data processing instructions, when executed by the computer language interpreter, configuring the computer language interpreter to request an access to the memory, the first data processing instructions, when executed by the computer language interpreter, configuring the computer language interpreter to:

obtain a cryptographic value of the second data processing instructions;

determine an authenticity of the second data processing instructions by using the cryptographic value;

based on the authenticity, perform a first operation selected from a first group consisting of:

inhibiting playback of at least a portion of the digital content, and

enabling the access by the computer language interpreter to the memory ~~of the playback device~~, the access being performed by the computer language interpreter during execution of the second data processing instructions.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the media interface is to receive at least some of the data from a media drive or via a network.

40. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method of controlling a playback device, the method comprising:

receiving data including digital content and first data processing instructions, the first data processing instructions corresponding to the digital content; and

executing the first data processing instructions by using a computer language interpreter of the playback device, the first data processing instructions configuring the computer language interpreter to:

determine a security risk of the playback device;

identify second data processing instructions as a software countermeasure associated with the security risk, the identifying being based on the security risk; and

initiate an execution of the second data processing instructions on the playback device.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 40, wherein the second data processing instructions include a specific instruction encoded as native code of the playback device.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 40, wherein the first data processing instructions, when executed by the computer language interpreter, configure the computer language interpreter to determine an authenticity of the second data processing instructions.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 40, wherein the first data processing instructions, in configuring the computer language interpreter to determine the security risk, configure the computer language interpreter to detect a presence of unauthorized software on the playback device.

44. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 40, wherein the first data processing instructions, when executed by the computer language interpreter, configure the computer language interpreter to initiate a reception of at least some of the second data processing instructions from a media drive or via a network.

45. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 40, wherein the second data processing instructions, when executed on the playback device, configure the playback device to modify at least some of the digital content with a forensic mark.

46. (Previously Presented) An optical medium comprising:

digital content; and

first data processing instructions corresponding to the digital content, the first data processing instructions, when executed by a computer language interpreter of a playback device, configuring the computer language interpreter to:

determine a security risk of the playback device;

identify second data processing instructions as a software countermeasure associated with the security risk, the identifying being based on the security risk; and

initiate execution of the second data processing instructions on the playback device.

47. (Previously Presented) The optical medium of claim 46, wherein the second data processing instructions include a specific instruction encoded as native code of the playback device.

48. (Previously Presented) The optical medium of claim 46, wherein the first data processing instructions, when executed by the computer language interpreter, configure the computer language interpreter to determine an authenticity of the second data processing instructions.

49. (Previously Presented) The optical medium of claim 46, wherein the first data processing instructions, in configuring the computer language interpreter to determine the security risk, configure the computer language interpreter to detect a presence of unauthorized software on the playback device.

50. (Previously Presented) The optical medium of claim 46, wherein the second data processing instructions, when executed on the playback device, configure the playback device to modify at least some of the digital content with a forensic mark.

51. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a media interface to receive digital content and first data processing instructions, the first data processing instructions corresponding to the digital content; and

a computer language interpreter communicatively coupled to the media interface, the computer language interpreter to execute the first data processing instructions, the first data processing instructions configuring the computer language interpreter to:

determine a security risk of the apparatus;

identify second data processing instructions as a software countermeasure associated with the security risk, the identifying being based on the security risk; and

initiate an execution of the second data processing instructions on the apparatus.

52. (Previously Presented) A machine-readable storage medium comprising a set of instructions that, when executed by one or more processors of a machine, cause the machine to:

receive data including digital content and first data processing instructions, the first data processing instructions corresponding to the digital content; and

execute the first data processing instructions by using the one or more processors, the first data processing instructions configuring the one or more processors to:

determine a security risk of the machine;

identify second data processing instructions as a software countermeasure associated with the security risk, the identifying being based on the security risk; and

initiate an execution of the second data processing instructions on the machine.

53. (Currently Amended) A system to control playback of digital content, the system comprising:

means for receiving data including the digital content, first data processing instructions, and second data processing instructions, the first data processing instructions corresponding to the digital content, the second data processing instructions to request access to a memory of a playback device; and

means for executing the first data processing instructions, the first data processing instructions to:

obtain a cryptographic value of the second data processing instructions;

determine an authenticity of the second data processing instructions by using the cryptographic value;

based on the authenticity, perform an operation selected from a group consisting of:

inhibiting playback of at least a portion of the digital content, and

enabling the access to the memory of the playback device, the access being performed during execution of the second data processing instructions.